(a) whether Government is aware that poor mobile services are being provided by MTNL and BSNL in comparison to services provided by the private mobile companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by Government

(c) whether it is also a fact that number of disconnections sought has increased since last year due to poor telecom services; and

(d) if so, the details of the availed disconnection, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Service of BSNL is working satisfactorily and is, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by TRAI. The service is comparable with that being provided by other operators. However, congestion has been observed in the mobile network sometimes at some places for which action has already been initiated by BSNL for augmenting the mobile network capacity. The augmentation will also enhance coverage and QoS. BSNL is optimizing its network continuously for its performance. Monitoring of the network has also been strengthened to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI.

MTNL is providing State-of-the-art telecom services to its subscribers. The mobile service of MTNL is meeting most of the benchmarks in respect of Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by TRAI. However, it is submitted that Quality of Service (QoS) improvement is a continuous process. Measures like antenna tilting, addition of BTS, upgradation of BTS and optimization of network, provision of Indoor solution are under taken on a continuous basis by MTNL to improve the mobile services. In order to improve coverage, MTNL has planned to add 120 Base Transceiver Station (BTS) in Delhi and 290 BTS in Mumbai during 2008-09. MTNL has so far added 98 BTS in Delhi and 50 BTS in Mumbai during the current financial year.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The net connections of BSNL and MTNL have increased since last year.

Deputation and promotion of officers

1115. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is following a uniform and transparent policy with regard to deputations and promotions for All India Service Officers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the policy with regard to deputations and promotions is not being following equitably;

(c) the steps that would be taken to ensure that all Government servants are treated in same, equitable and fair way; and

(d) the steps proposed to ensure that empanelment promotions and postings and deputations are transparent and fair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Proposals from Chhattisgarh

1116. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals pending for approval in his Ministry from the State of Chhattisgarh till December 31, 2008 and since when they have been pending;

(b) the details of the pending proposals and the reasons for delay in their approval;

(c) whether Government would issue any guidelines to settle the proposals especially those related with energy; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) According to information received, there is no proposal pending with Ministry of Planning, Government of India.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Base to assess the poverty line

†1117. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consumption in calories is considered as a base to assess the poverty line in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether different institutes have mentioned different amount of calorie consumption for hardworking people;

(d) if so, the criteria in this regard, institute-wise; and

(e) the criteria accepted by Government and the ground thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission uses a poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.